

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 951

By Freeman

A RESOLUTION to congratulate and commend Next Steps at Vanderbilt on its tenth anniversary.

WHEREAS, in 2008, the LDB Foundation, the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, Vanderbilt University, and the Tennessee Task Force on Postsecondary Education for Students with Intellectual Disabilities worked together to support the creation of Tennessee's first inclusive higher education program; and

WHEREAS, in January 2010, Next Steps at Vanderbilt and Vanderbilt University welcomed the first class of students to begin their studies; and

WHEREAS, Next Steps at Vanderbilt supports students with intellectual disabilities to complete their four-year college certificate program; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee now has six universities offering inclusive higher education programs, Vanderbilt University in Nashville; the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; the University of Memphis; Lipscomb University in Nashville; Union University in Jackson; and East Tennessee State University in Johnson City; and

WHEREAS, these programs mirror the life and expectations of university students with coursework, career exploration and development experiences, and extracurricular activities; program graduates across Tennessee enjoy a more than ninety percent employment rate; and

WHEREAS, these programs also provide a vast array of opportunities for university faculty, staff, and students to learn about supporting and including people with disabilities, and graduate and undergraduate students gain experience with lesson planning, employment supports, social skills training, and the building of inclusive communities; and

WHEREAS, these programs have been supported by the State of Tennessee through the Tennessee STEP UP Scholarship, Vocation Rehabilitation Support, the Tennessee Council

on Developmental Disabilities, the Tennessee Department of Education, the Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, TennCare, and many other areas of State government; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to recognize such an exceptional program on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Next Steps at Vanderbilt on the occasion of its tenth anniversary and commemorate a decade of inclusive higher education in Tennessee, extending to these programs our best wishes for much continued expansion and success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.